

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 11-15 have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 8 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 10 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okumura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,050). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application is a divisional of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,527 B1 having the U.S. filing date of October 5, 2000. Okumura et al. has a U.S. filing date of April 26, 2000 and the issue date of June 24, 2003. Therefore, Okumura et al. does not have the proper date to qualify as a § 102(b) reference. At best, it may have the date to qualify as a § 102(e) reference. To disqualify Okumura et al. as a § 102(e) reference, Applicant will submit a certified English translation of the foreign priority document (Korean Patent Application No. 99-42931 filed October 5, 1999). For some reason, if the Examiner cannot locate such document when the Examiner is ready to act on the case, please contact the undersigned. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 11-15 further define the invention as recited in independent claim 1, 2 and 8 and are thus allowable at least for the same reasons that claims 1, 2 and 8 are allowable as discussed above.

Thus, claims 1, 2 and 8 and their dependent claims are allowable over the prior art of record, and the application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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